

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 20, 21, 24 and 25 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 11 and 17 are currently being amended. Support for the features added to claims 11 and 17 may be found on page 21, line 11 to page 23, line 27 of the specification and in the flowchart shown in Figure 5 of the drawings.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends and cancels claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending and canceling the claims as set forth above, claims 11, 17, 22, 23, 26 and 27 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 11, 17 and 20-27¹ were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,149,977 to Mita in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,483,009 to Ueno et al., further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,658,156 to Aritomi, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0041396 to Ugajin et al.

The present invention is directed to providing an image quality that satisfies the operator's needs. To achieve this, according to the present invention, pre-scanning is performed at the time of copying, and it is then determined whether or not a sufficient image quality can be obtained with a compression rate set in advance by an operator. Then, if necessary, a warning message is displayed in order for an operator to select continuing copying with the set compression rate, or copying with a decreased compression rate.

¹ It is noted that page 2 of the Office Action incorrectly refers to the rejection of claims 11, 13-14, 16-17 and 19.

The present invention is also directed to precisely reflect the user's demand in color copying. To achieve this, when sufficient image quality cannot be obtained with the currently set compression rate, a warning is output so as to allow the user to change the setting of a compression method and a compression rate.

None of the cited references discloses or suggests the technical ideas to achieve the above objects.

In the present invention according to presently pending independent claims 11 and 17, if it is determined that a sufficient image quality cannot be obtained, the processing is interrupted and a warning message is displayed (see the guiding means/step of claims 11 and 17). Based on the displayed message, the operator can determine whether to continue copying with the set compression rate (see the second selecting means/step of claims 11 and 17). None of the references cited against the claims discloses or suggests these features. Thus, the present invention differs from the teachings of the cited art of record.

Further, in the present invention according to presently pending independent claims 11 and 17, the image data of at least one of red, green and blue is read from the original and expanded to bitmap data of one page of the original through prescanning (see the reading means/step and expanding means/step of claims 11 and 17). Then, whether the original image is a highly detailed image or not is distinguished on the basis of an amount of the bitmap data (see the distinguishing means/step of claims 11 and 17). None of the references cited against the claims discloses or suggests these features. The present invention differs from the teachings of cited art of record also in this respect.

Still further, in the present invention according to presently pending independent claims 11 and 17, there is provided a reading means/step for converting the image data of red, the image data of green and the image data of blue to image forming data for colors of yellow (Y), magenta (M), cyan (C) and black (BK). None of the references cited against the claims discloses or suggests these features. The present invention differs from the teachings of cited art of record also in this respect.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 11 and 17, as well as the presently pending dependent claims under rejection, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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